

Claims

[c1] 1. A method using a ring to dispense sheet material from a stack of sheet material comprising the steps of: placing said ring on top of said stack of sheet material so that it is supported thereon with its weight downwardly compressing said stack of sheet material with a constant compressive force provided by action of gravity; and drawing a sheet of sheet material from the top of said stack of sheet material upwardly through said ring to dispense it from said stack of sheet material.

[c2] 2. The method using the ring to dispense sheet material from a stack of sheet material of claim 1, wherein said stack of sheet material is an interleaved stack of tissue sheet material, and wherein drawing a tissue sheet from the top of said stack of interleaved tissue sheet material during said sheet drawing step to dispense it brings the next-to-top tissue sheet of said stack of interleaved tissue sheet material through said ring in ready position to be dispensed.

[c3] 3. The method using a ring to dispense sheet material from a stack of sheet material of claim 1, wherein said

ring has an inside diameter of about three (3) inches, is made of steel, and weighs between three (3) and eleven (11) ounces.

- [c4] 4. A tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues, comprising:
 - a free-standing stack of tissues;
 - a free-standing tissue dispensing member adapted to seat upon said free-standing stack of tissues having a first, open portion adapted to allow the tissue on the top of said free-standing stack of tissues to be pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it from off of said freestack and having a second, weighted portion cooperative with said first, open portion adapted to so compress the tissues of said free-standing stack of tissues upon which it is seated as to remain seated thereon when the top tissue is pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it without tearing the tissue being dispensed.
- [c5] 5. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 4, wherein said stack of tissues is a stack of interleaved tissues.
- [c6] 6. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 5, wherein said second, weighted portion cooperative with said first,

open portion of said free-standing tissue dispensing member adapted to so compress the tissues of said stack of tissues upon which it is seated as to remain seated thereon when a top tissue is pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it without tearing the tissue being dispensed is further adapted to prevent tearing of the next-to-top tissue of the stack of interleaved tissues when a top tissue is pulled through said first, open portion to dispense it and the next-to-top tissue is thereby drawn into the first, apertured portion in ready position to be dispensed.

- [c7] 7. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off a stack of tissues of claim 4, wherein said first open portion of said free-standing tissue dispensing member is an unbounded open portion.
- [c8] 8. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 7, wherein said unbounded open portion is U-shaped.
- [c9] 9. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off a stack of tissues of claim 4, wherein said first open portion of said free-standing tissue dispensing member is a bounded open portion.
- [c10] 10. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues in-

dividually off of a stack of tissues of claim 7, wherein said bounded open portion is O-shaped.

- [c11] 11. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 4, wherein said second, weighted portion of said free-standing tissue dispensing member is integrally formed.
- [c12] 12 The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 11, wherein said second, weighted portion of said integrally formed free-standing tissue dispensing member is a ring.
- [c13] 13. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 11, wherein said second, weighted portion of said integrally formed free-standing tissue dispensing member is U-shaped.
- [c14] 14. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 11, wherein said second, weighted portion of said integrally formed free-standing tissue dispensing member includes an apertured plate whose dimensions are coextensive with a major portion of the top of said stack of sheets.
- [c15] 15. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 4, wherein said second, weighted portion of said free-standing tis-

sue dispensing member is composed of multiple pieces.

- [c16] 16. The tissue sheet dispenser for dispensing tissues individually off of a stack of tissues of claim 4, further including a flexible package.
- [c17] 17. A method using an elongated member closed on itself enclosing an opening to dispense sheet material from a stack of sheet material comprising the steps of: placing said elongated member closed on itself enclosing an opening on top of said stack of sheet material so that it is supported thereon with its weight downwardly compressing said stack of sheet material with a constant compressive force provided by action of gravity; and drawing a sheet of sheet material from the top of said stack of sheet material upwardly through said opening to dispense it from said stack of sheet material.